



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

News

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Beacon Hill Extension of Mountains to Sound Trail Celebrated

SEATTLE —Today officials from Washington State and the City of Seattle celebrated the substantial completion of a new [multi-purpose trail](#) on Beacon Hill. The 12-foot wide, paved trail connects the I-90 trail at the south end of the Jose Rizal (12th Avenue South) Bridge with Holgate Street in Seattle's SODO area, and is part of the regional Mountains to Sound Greenway trail system. The grand opening represents a public-private partnership that dates back nearly 20 years and involves more than 20 community partners.

"Together, we have taken an underutilized space that has long been a safety concern, and through creative design, partnerships, and community involvement, have turned it into welcoming accessible space for our community," said Mayor Mike McGinn.

In 2001 Citizens for Off Leash Areas helped create the fenced dog park in the lower meadow. Then in 2003 the Beacon Alliance of Neighbors partnered with the City of Seattle to create an interagency task force that produced the first public/private restoration and clean-up efforts in 2005. This year Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith led another public engagement effort by creating a City interdepartmental task force, reinvigorating the goal to create a usable downtown green space.

"The success of this project is due to the dedicated involvement of the community and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trust, as well as the interdepartmental team that has been working on it furiously since the spring," said Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith. "With its success comes a new chapter for the East Duwamish Greenbelt."

The new trail is the first in Seattle to be illuminated by street lights, placed about every 160 feet, as part of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques. Other improvements include fencing on both sides of the level pathway, easy to read directional signs, removal of invasive species and native plantings to enhance the experience for all users.

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Design and construction of the trail was closely coordinated with the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Washington Department of Transportation and Seattle Parks and Recreation. Its completion fills a major gap in the regional trail system. The only remaining project element is installing final fencing around the off-leash area to create a four-plus acre site.

The many volunteer groups involved along the way include Americorps, EarthCorps, City Fruit, Friends of Dr. José Rizal, United Way, Cascade Land Conservancy, Feet First, Seattle Works, the Green Seattle Partnership, the UW Filipino Student Association and a multitude of others.

The new trail is one of the several features planned to improve public access and safety to this greenbelt area on the west side of North Beacon Hill. Other plans include a community garden and a revitalized orchard.

The \$2.58 million project is funded by \$1.8 million from the City's eight-year Pro Parks Levy which passed in 2000, as well as funds from WSDOT and a federal grant through the Puget Sound Regional Council. [WSDOT](#) managed the project, and SDOT oversaw the design and construction.

The [Mountains to Sound Greenway](#) is a regional trail system that offers an accessible, safe and enjoyable non-motorized route from the Cascade Mountains into the Seattle urban area. More than 100 miles of trail have already been built. The purpose of this project is to extend the multi-use trail to connect with transit, other trails and eventually the waterfront.

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